

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 21-31 with the following amended paragraph:

In a ninth aspect, the invention provides an isolated altered APAF1 polypeptide. According to this aspect of the invention, the isolated polypeptide has (in reference to SEQ ID NO:2): (a) the Cys at position 450 substituted with Trp; (b) the Gln at position 465 substituted with Arg; (c) the Glu at position 777 substituted with Lys; (d) the Asn at position 782 substituted with Thr; (e) the Thr at position 953 substituted with Ala; (f) the Leu at position 415 substituted with Pro; (g) the Ser at position 357 substituted with Leu; (h) the Asp at position 479 substituted with Glu; ~~(i)~~ or (i) the Glu at position 625 substituted with Ala. In one embodiment of this aspect of the invention, the invention provides a protein molecule comprising the amino acids set forth in SEQ ID NO:3. In another embodiment of this aspect of the invention an antibody capable of binding the altered polypeptide but incapable of binding a wild-type APAF1 polypeptide is provided.